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Security Information

19 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Congressional Operations in the Field of
Psychological Warfare; Indications of
Possible New Congressional Actions

1. It is believed that you are quite familiar with the activities of the select committee of the House of Representatives for the investigation of the Katyn Forest Massacre, and that you are also aware of our efforts to retain the good will of this Congressional committee without, at the same time, becoming involved in its operations and publicity. We have felt for some time that, whereas the Katyn Forest investigation by this committee would be productive of a considerable amount of publicity and information most painful to the Russians, it might also develop into a domestic political boomerang. The latter result could come if the committee should begin to go into the question of who suppressed the famous missing report which has been the cause of so much embarrassment to G-2. If the committee should get hot on this trail, the scent might lead in various directions, including our Embassy in Moscow, the White House, the State Department and even the Treasury, and in a political year this could become an issue of considerable moment.

2. Mr. John Mitchell, the Chief Counsel for the committee, who has just returned from the European tour of the committee where they went to collect evidence, called on me at 12:30 on Saturday at his request. It was my purpose in receiving him and talking with him to retain his good will and the good will of the committee. In Mr. Mitchell's lengthy discourse he mentioned two matters which I believed to be of sufficient importance to warrant your attention and consideration. These are as follows:

a. So far the committee has made very little effort to track down and expose the governmental officials who were "responsible" for the "suppression" or the "loss" of the Katyn Forest Report of 1945. The committee has now decided to devote attention to this phase of the case and has decided to summon General Clayton Bissell who was G-2 at the time. The committee

SECRET

Security Information

- 2 -

may subpoena other witnesses, possibly including Julius Holmes, who was the alleged addressee of the report when it was allegedly sent by G-2 to the State Department. They may also subpoena former White House Aides who they suspect may have had a hand in the "decision" to bury the document and "gloss over" the incident. Mr. Mitchell speculated that the trail might lead to the doors of Alger Hiss and Lauchlin Currie.

b. Congressman McCormick, who is a member of the select committee, has submitted to the President and/or the State Department a memorandum which proposes that Congress should engage in further psychological warfare operations with a view to providing the subject matter for propaganda to be exploited by the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and other propaganda outlets. The memorandum recommends the creation of a new Congressional committee to investigate Communist atrocities against our troops in Korea and also the Communist charges of American use of biological warfare measures in Korea. One of the thoughts in the memorandum is that this committee should operate on a continuing basis and should take up various inquiries and investigations which would be apt to be productive of propaganda material, thus serving as a sounding board for the United States' efforts in the field of propaganda. Mr. Mitchell stated that a copy of this memorandum is believed to be in the hands of Assistant Secretary McFall of the Department of State, although he did not know whether Mr. McFall had discussed the matter with anyone else in the State Department. Mr. Mitchell quoted the President as having said that a Congressional investigation of the atrocities in Korea would have his blessing. (I believe that this is a matter which should be urgently considered by the PSB and that the PSB should weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the Congressional committee's proposal. The question might be asked, "Why should the Korean atrocities not be investigated by the United Nations rather than by a committee of the United States Congress?" The Congressional committee would probably take the view that, since the United Nations has not conducted an investigation in all these months, it is to be supposed that it will not do so.)

(Signed) FRANK G. WISNER

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cc: DDCI
General Counsel (Attention: Mr. Pforzheimer)✓
ADPC
C/PY